



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/669,171	09/25/2000	Ahti Muhonen	781.378USWI	3013

32294 7590 12/22/2003

SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.
14TH FLOOR
8000 TOWERS CRESCENT
TYSONS CORNER, VA 22182

EXAMINER

CONTEE, JOY KIMBERLY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2686

7

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/669,171

Applicant(s)

MUHONEN, AHTI

Examiner

Joy K Contee

Art Unit

2686

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12 and 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4, 7, 13 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on 25 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) Z.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3,5,6,12,15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Veijola et al. (Veijola), U. S. Patent No. 6,128,509.

Regarding claims 1,12 and 16, Veijola discloses a mobile communications system (and an area register therein) comprising at least one mobile communication network (PLMN); at least one service center for point-to-multipoint services; and at least one network node through which a point-to-multipoint service is transmitted to cells belonging to a destination area, the geographical destination area of the point-to-multipoint service being indicated in the system as a logical name, characterized in that-

the system comprises memory means (and inquiry means) for mapping each predetermined logical name to one or more network element addresses (i.e., reads on physical address, e.g., servers) of the system (col. 7, line 28-33 and lines 55-62),

and that a service center (i.e., reads on router) is arranged to inquire, in response to a received service request, from the memory means the addresses of the network elements corresponding to the logical name of the destination area and to transmit (i.e.,

Art Unit: 2686

reply to inquiry) the point-to-multipoint service via the network elements (i.e., server) to the geographical destination area (col. 13, line 65 to col. 14, line 17 and col. 15, lines 50-59).

Regarding claims 2,6 and 17, Veijola disclose a mobile communication system according to claims 1,5 and 16, respectively, characterized in that the service center (i.e., router) is also arranged to check whether the network element address is the address of the a second service center and if yes to transmit the service request to the second service center (col. 7, lines 55-61).

Regarding claims 3 and 7, Veijola discloses a mobile communication system according to claims 2 and 5, respectively, characterized in that the memory means are arranged to link to the address of the second service center associated with the logical name a second logical name corresponding to the logical name in the service area of the second service center and the service center is arranged to replace the logical name given in the service request with said second logical name before the service request is transmitted to the second service center (col. 7, lines 28-41 and col.12, lines 17-31).

Regarding claim 5, Veijola discloses the limitations as applied above (claims 1,12 and 16), but additionally discloses maintaining an address list for each logical name in the mobile communication network, the address list being used for mapping a logical name to one or more network element address of the system (see Table 4, col. 7, line 55-62 and col. 8, lines 26-50).

Regarding claim 15, Veijola discloses an area register according to claim 12, characterized in that it comprises updating means for adding logical names to and for removing them from the list of logical names and for adding network element address to and for removing them from the network element (i.e., reads on the router being fully configurable) (col. 12, lines 17-31).

Regarding claim 18, Veijola discloses a service center according to claim 16, characterized in that it comprises load means for monitoring the load of the service center itself and that of the second service center and determining means responsive to the load means for re-determining the service area of the second service center (col. 6, lines 55-58).

3. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sasuta et al. (Sasuta), U.S. Patent No. 5,862,490.

Regarding claim 8, Sasuta discloses a method for transmitting a point to multipoint service of a mobile communication system to a destination area of the service, at least part of the destination area being outside the service area of a first service center, the first service center receiving a service request from a service provider, characterized by the method comprising the steps of-

setting up a connection from the first service center (i.e., reads on first service provider) to a second service center (i.e., reads on second service provider) (col. 2, line 57 to col. 3, line 16);

maintaining information (i.e., reads on affiliation list stored in a distributed fashion) about the address of the second service center and its service area at the first service center (col. 3, lines 45-54);

receiving the service request indicating the destination area (i.e., reads on service provider that accommodates service) at the first service center (col. 6, lines 35-37);

checking (i.e., reads on selecting from list of available service providers) at the first service center whether at least part of the destination area is within the service area of the second service center (col. 4, lines 43-53); and

if yes, forwarding the service request to the second service center (col. 6, lines 51-59).

Regarding claim 9, Sasuta discloses a method according to claim 8, characterized in that, when at least part of the destination area is within the service area of the second service center, the method further comprises the steps of –

setting the part of the destination area (i.e., reads on list of available service providers accommodating the requested service) which is within the service area of the second service center as the destination area of the service request received at the first center, and forwarding the service request to the second service center (col. 6, lines 51-59).

Regarding claim 10, Sasuta discloses a method according to claim 8, characterized in that at least part of the service area of the second service center is within the service area of the first center, the common service area being referred to as

a transferable service area (i.e., available service provider accommodating service), and the method further comprising the steps of comparing the load of the first service center with the load of the second service center; determining a threshold value for the difference between the loads; and when the load difference between the service centers reaches the threshold value (i.e., inherent for determining provider with optimal performance metric) (see col. 5, lines 54-67), determining the transferable service area to belong within the service area of the service center with a smaller load (i.e., reads on selecting the service provider based on resource usage and/or resource availability) (col. 4, line 55 to col.5, line 4 and lines 54-67).

Regarding claim 11, Sasuta discloses a method according to claim 8, characterized in that the destination area (i.e., reads on service provider which is inherently located in a communication "cell") of the service request received by the first service center is indicated as a list of cells (i.e., inherent that affiliation list would include cell site info. in identification) (col. 3, lines 45-55).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4,7,13,14 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: it is not found in prior art of record, wherein the logical name is determined by means of at least two logical names and their intermediate logical operator.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Andersson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,236,657, discloses point-to-multipoint connections.

Fendick et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,252,857, discloses a method and apparatus for provisioned and dynamic quality of service in a communication network.

Moore et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,530,963, discloses a method and system for maintaining routing between mobile workstations and selected network workstation using routing table within each router.

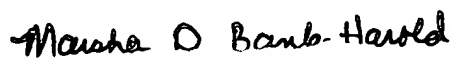
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joy K Contee whose telephone number is 703-308-0149. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on 703-305-4379. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.


Joy Contee

December 13, 2003


MARSHA D. BANKS-HAROLD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600